



46 \$2.25 US
\$3.25 CAN
SEP 98

JAMES
ROBINSON
GENE
HA

STARMAN

**TIMES
PAST**

**GOOD MEN
AND BAD:
1954**

F.98

I can't say I was friends with Bennett.

Jake.

Bobo.

Whatever you want to call him.

...I called him not at all.

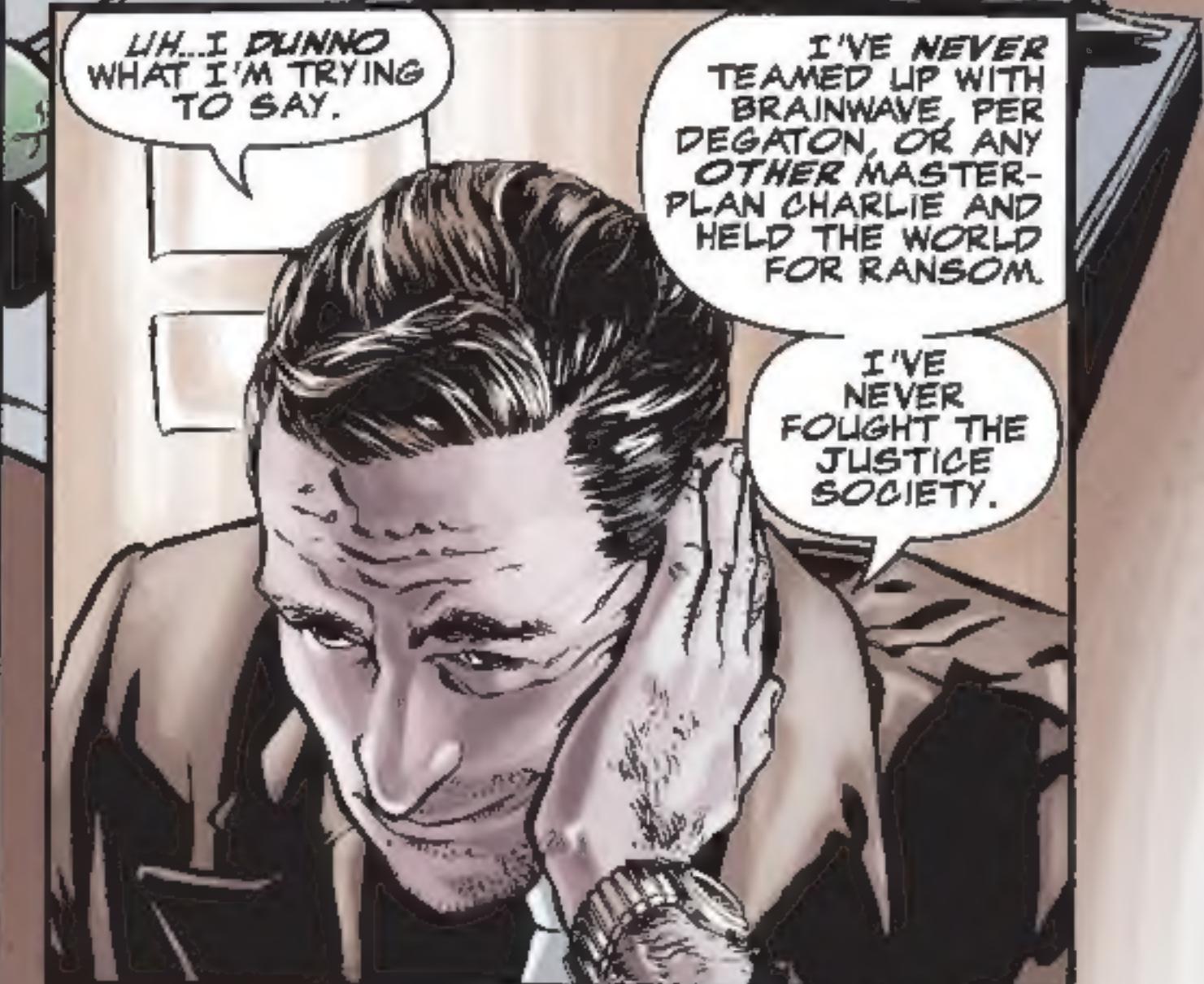
That is not to say I wouldn't have, but the poor fellow knew more of jail cells than he did blue skies and Deco spires.

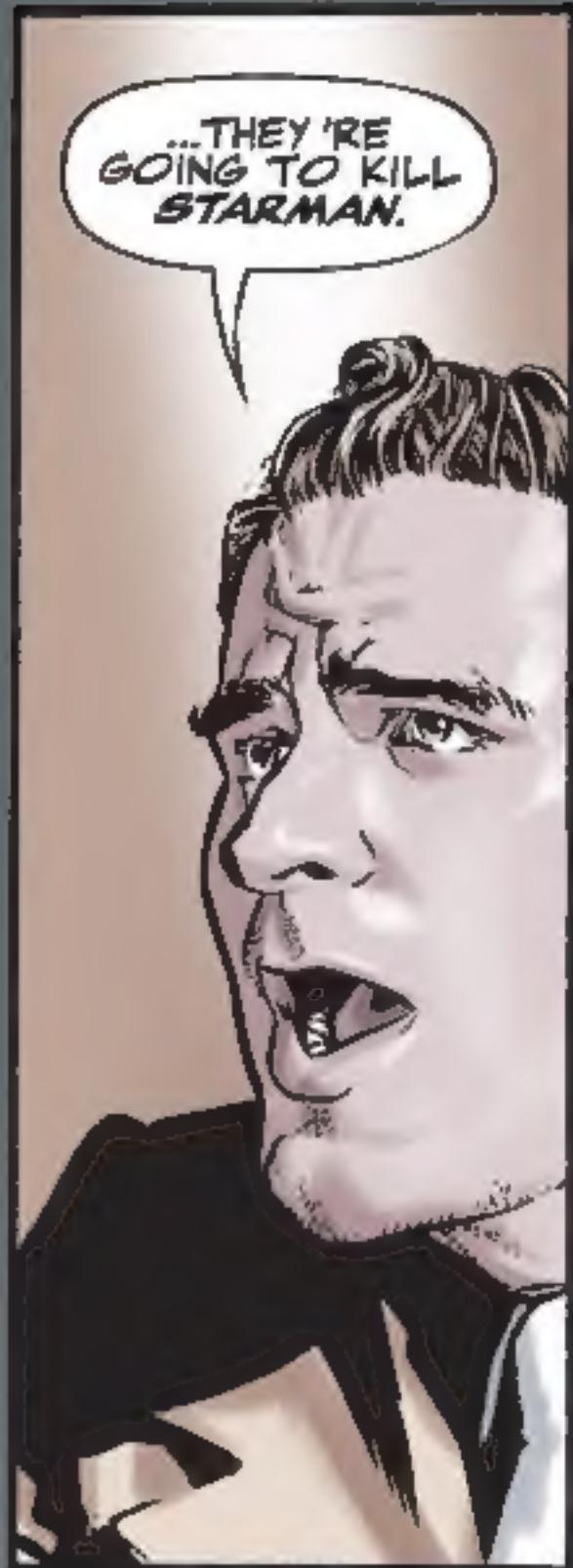
But there was one time.

One time...

YOU'RE THE SHADE. BIG-TIME VILLAIN. SHADOW POWERS.

AND YOU'RE MR. BENNETTI. BIG-TIME VILLAIN. SUPER STRENGTH AND INVULNERABILITY.





YEAH. THE FIDDLER, THE ICICLE
AND...err...THE GAMBLER, I
THINK. THEY'RE GONNA KILL
STARMAN.

WHY?

I GUESS I'D BETTER START AT THE BEGINNING. IT WAS AFTER THAT FIGHT I TOLD YOU ABOUT.

THE JESTER?

YEAH, I WAS AT A SAWBONES... UNDERWORLD KIND... GETTING MY NICKS AND SCRAPES PATCHED UP. HE TELLS ME WHAT HE'S HEARD.

YOU KNOW HOW IT'S BEEN IN OPAL SINCE STARMAN DIED?

By this he meant the brief Starman. He of 1951. The one I know nothing of.

IT'S BEEN... QUIET.

NO CRIME. I WAS IN STIR, MOST CRIMINALS STAYED AWAY. NEW YORK, GOTHAM, KEYSTONE, THEY WERE HIGH CRIME, NOT HERE.

THESE THREE VILLAINS I MENTIONED... THEY DECIDED OPAL WAS EASY PICKINGS. THEY WANNA GO INTO SEMI-RETIREMENT.

SEMI-RETIREMENT? WHATEVER NEXT? SEMI-WORLD-DOMINATION?

THESE GUYS ARE ALL GETTING OLDER. TIMES ARE CHANGING. MAYBE THAT MAKES THEM SMARTER THAN ME OR YOU.

HAVING MET THEM, I SINCERELY DOUBT THAT. ANYWAY, HOW DOES THIS EQUATE TO KILLING STARMAN?

WELL, THE RED AND GREEN, HE WAS GONE BUT NOW HE'S BACK.

YES, AND BRIGHTER THAN EVER.







GOOD MEN and BAD:1952

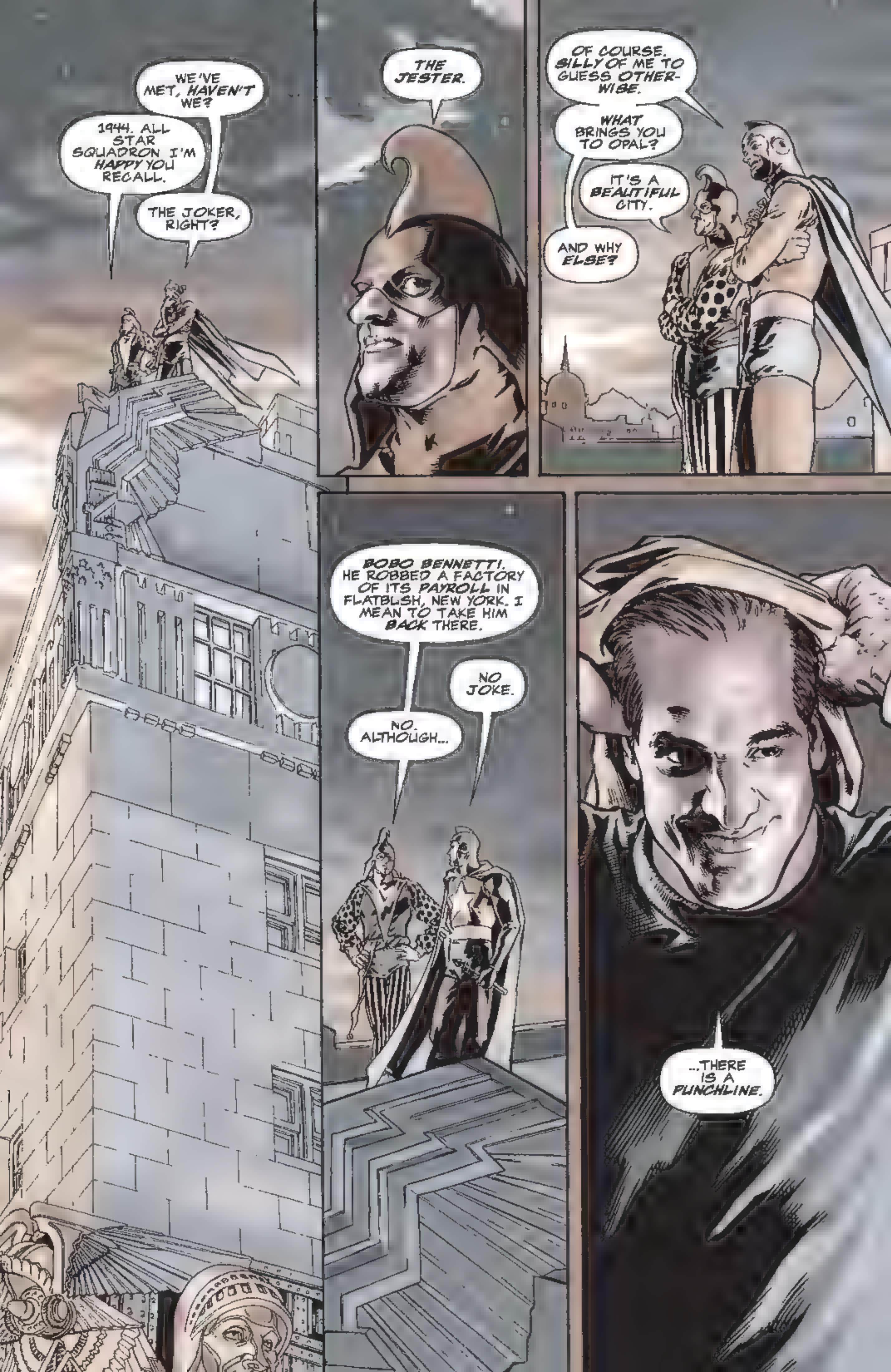
A Tale of
Times Past

THERE
WERE FOUR
OF THEM!

HAHA
HAH!

JAMES ROBINSON - writer
GENE HA - artist & colorist
BILL OAKLEY - letterer
DIGITAL CHAMELEON - separator
CHUCK KIM - assistant editor
PETER TOMASI - editor
ARCHIE GOODWIN - guiding light





THIS IS ALL RATHER SUDDEN, ISN'T IT? I HARDLY KNOW YOU AND YOU SHOW ME YOUR FACE.

I FIGURE WE'VE BEEN AT IT TOO LONG TO KEEP OUR IDENTITIES SECRET. CONSIDER IT MY ACT OF GOOD FAITH...



YEAH. AND THERE'S A LOT TO BE SAID FOR PLAIN CLOTHES.

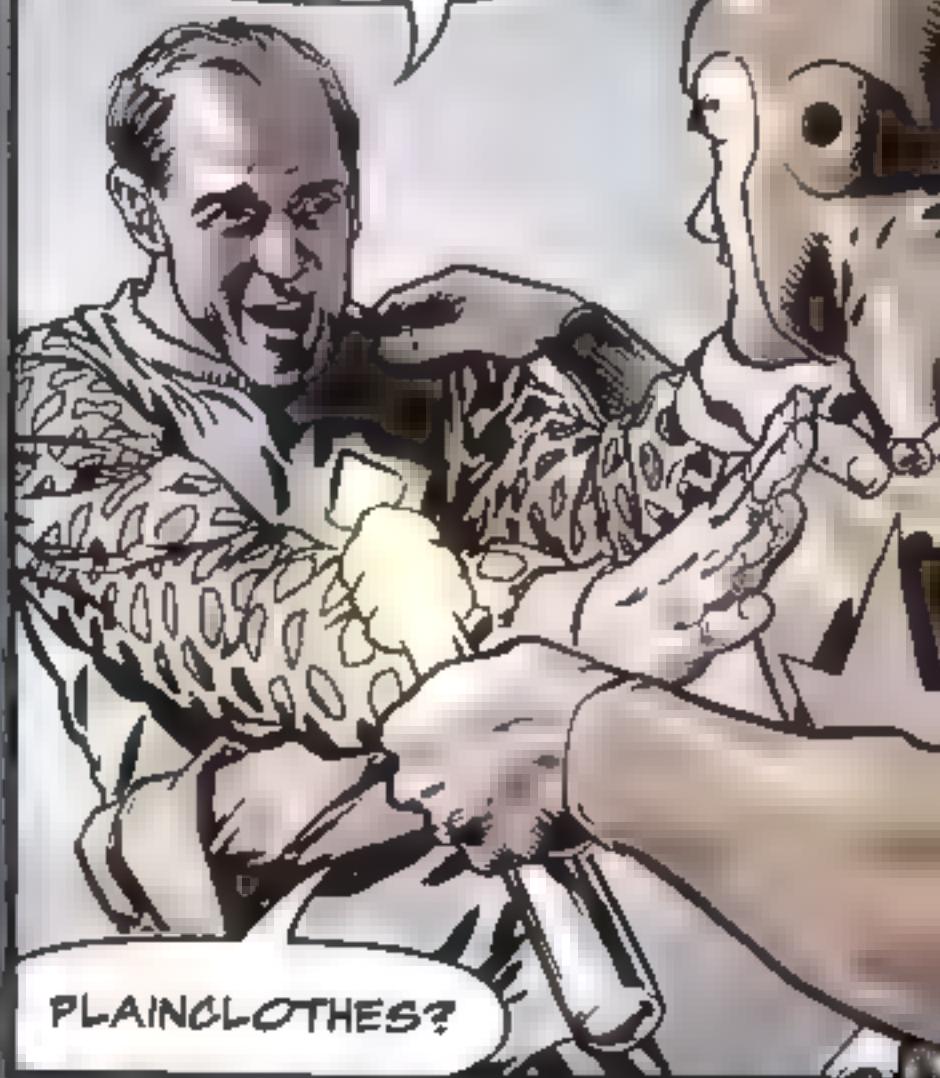
THIS...SUPERHEROICS...IS GROWING TIRED. A YEAR... MAYBE LESS AND I'M DONE WITH THE BELLS AND TRICKERY. I'M GETTING OLD... AND TOO RESPONSIBLE... RESPECTABLE.



...TED KNIGHT.

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT? DID ONE OF MY CIRCLE OF HEROES TALK?

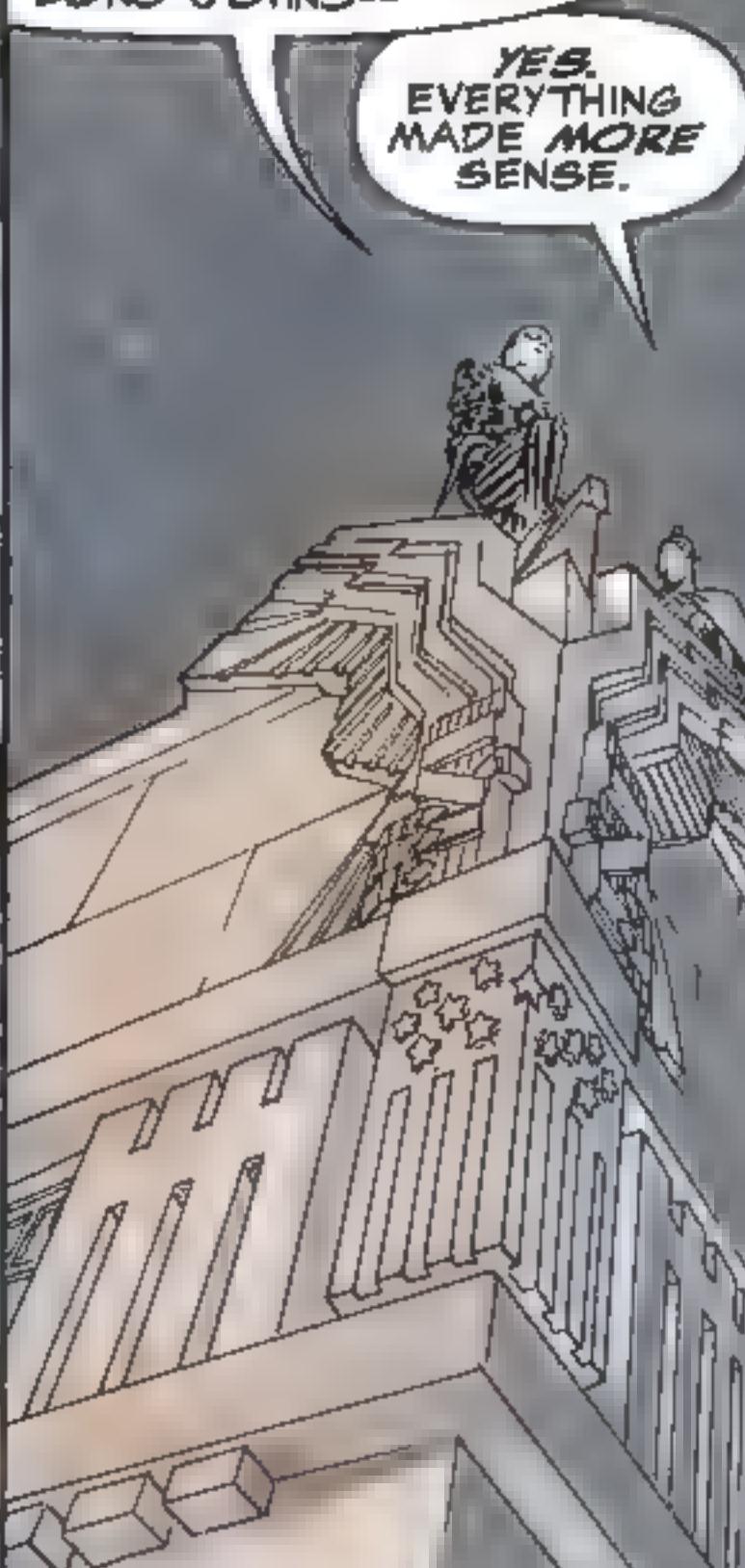
NO, I'M GOOD WITH CLUES IS ALL. I'M REALLY POLICE DETECTIVE CHARLES LANE.

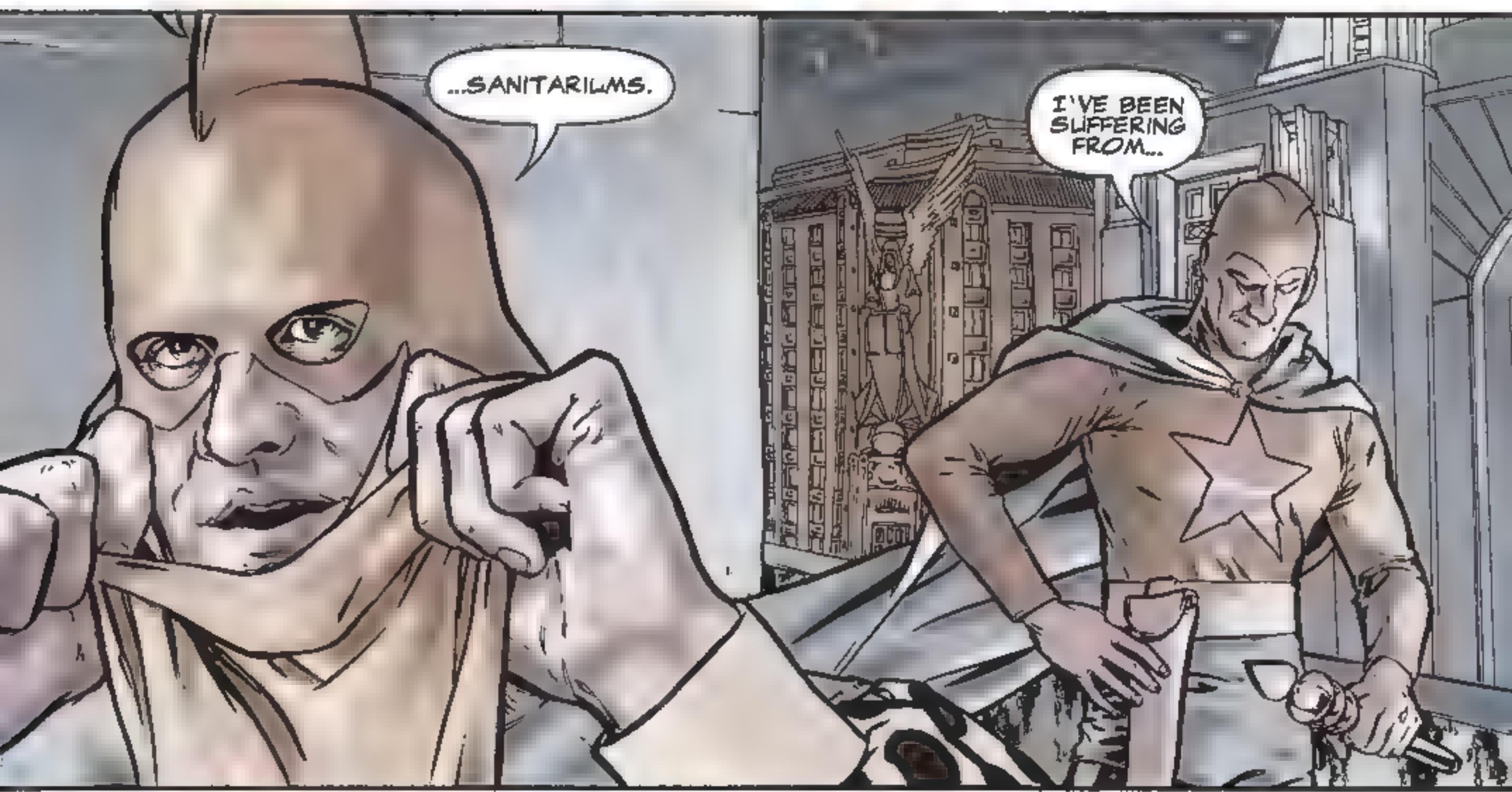


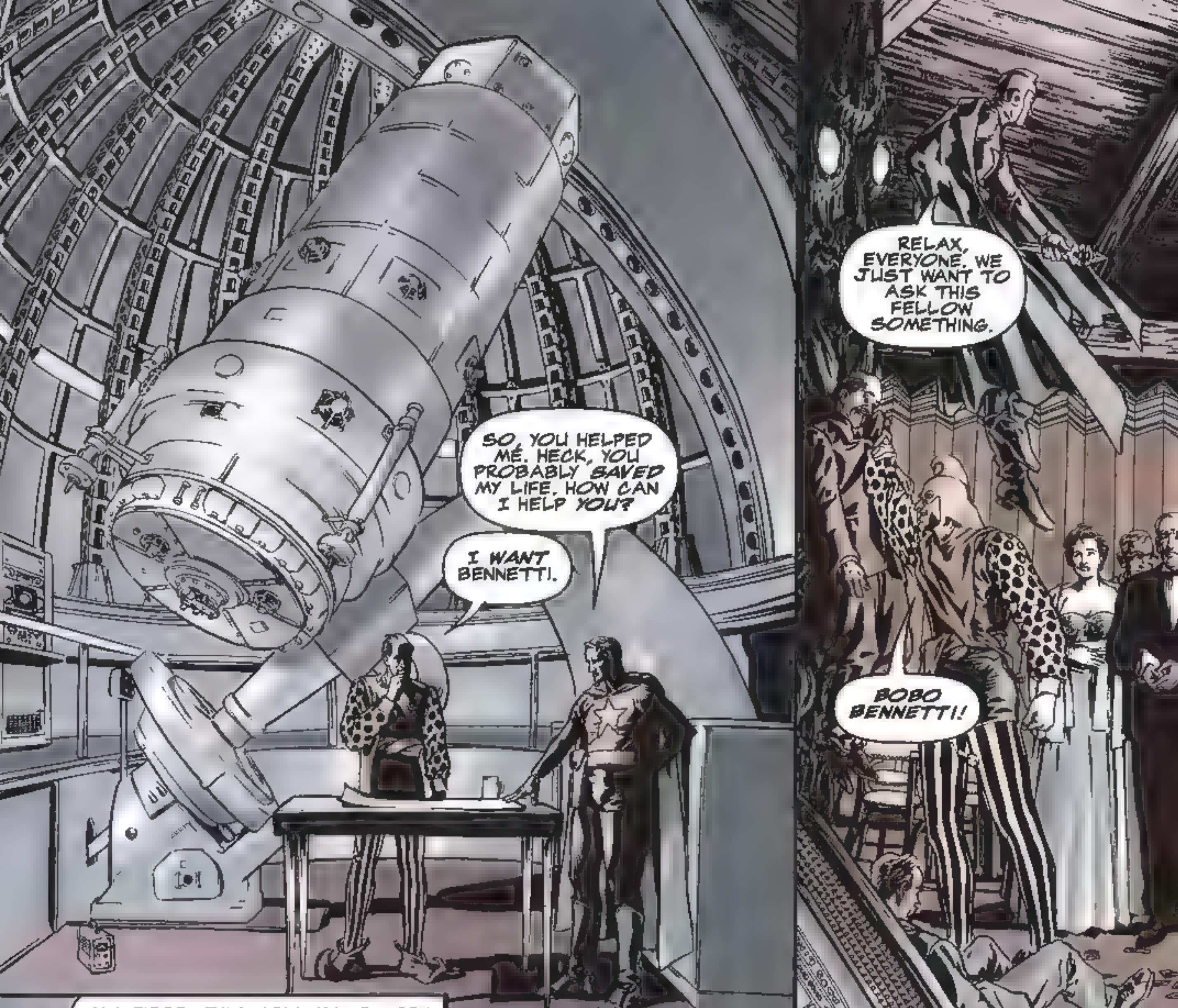
PLAINCLOTHES?

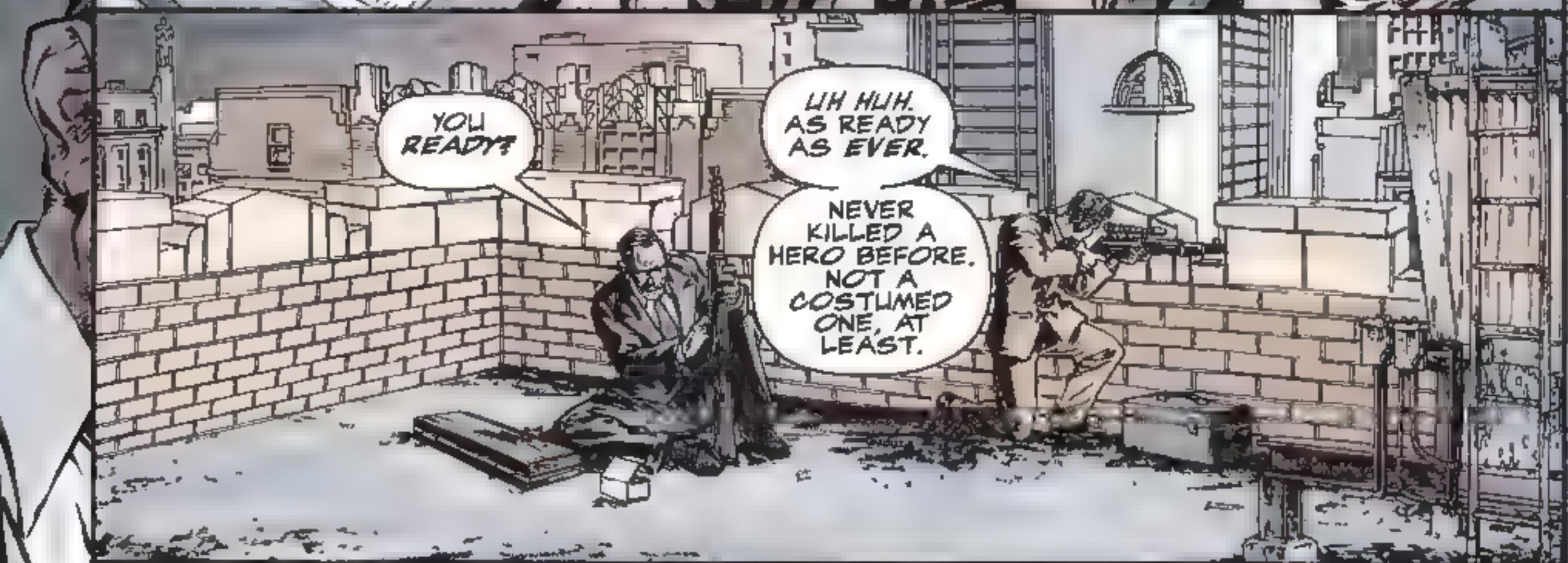
...WHEN I FIRST STARTED... AS PATROLMAN CHUCK LANE...BACK WHEN EVERYONE WITH A GIMMICK WAS SLIPPING INTO BRIGHT LONG JOHNS...

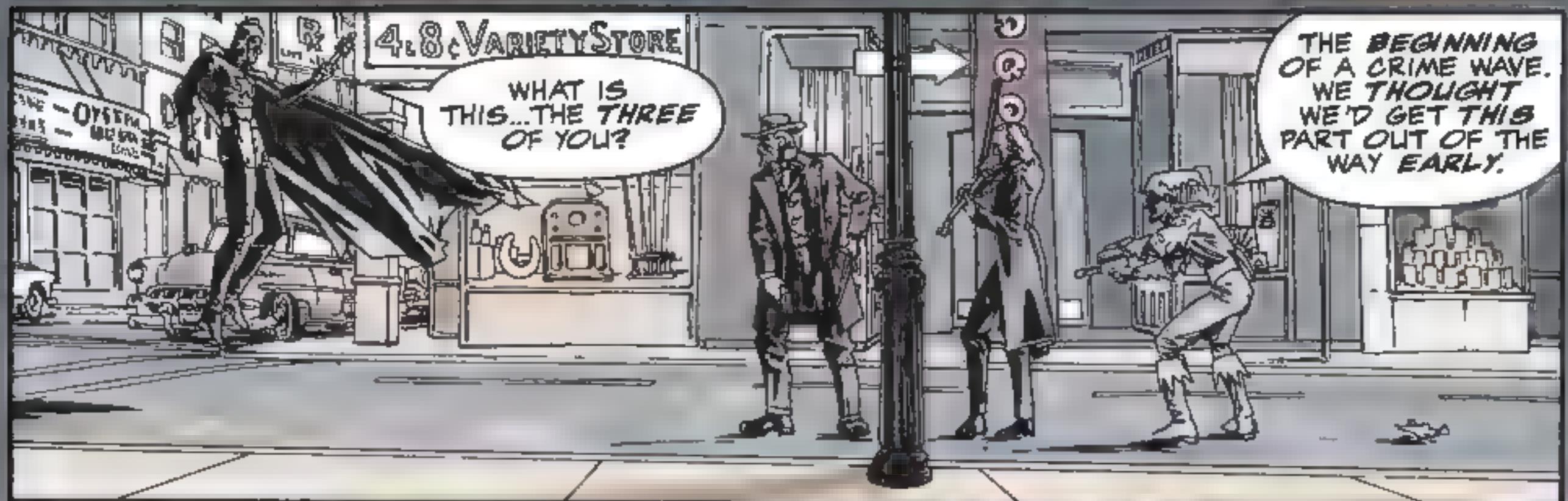
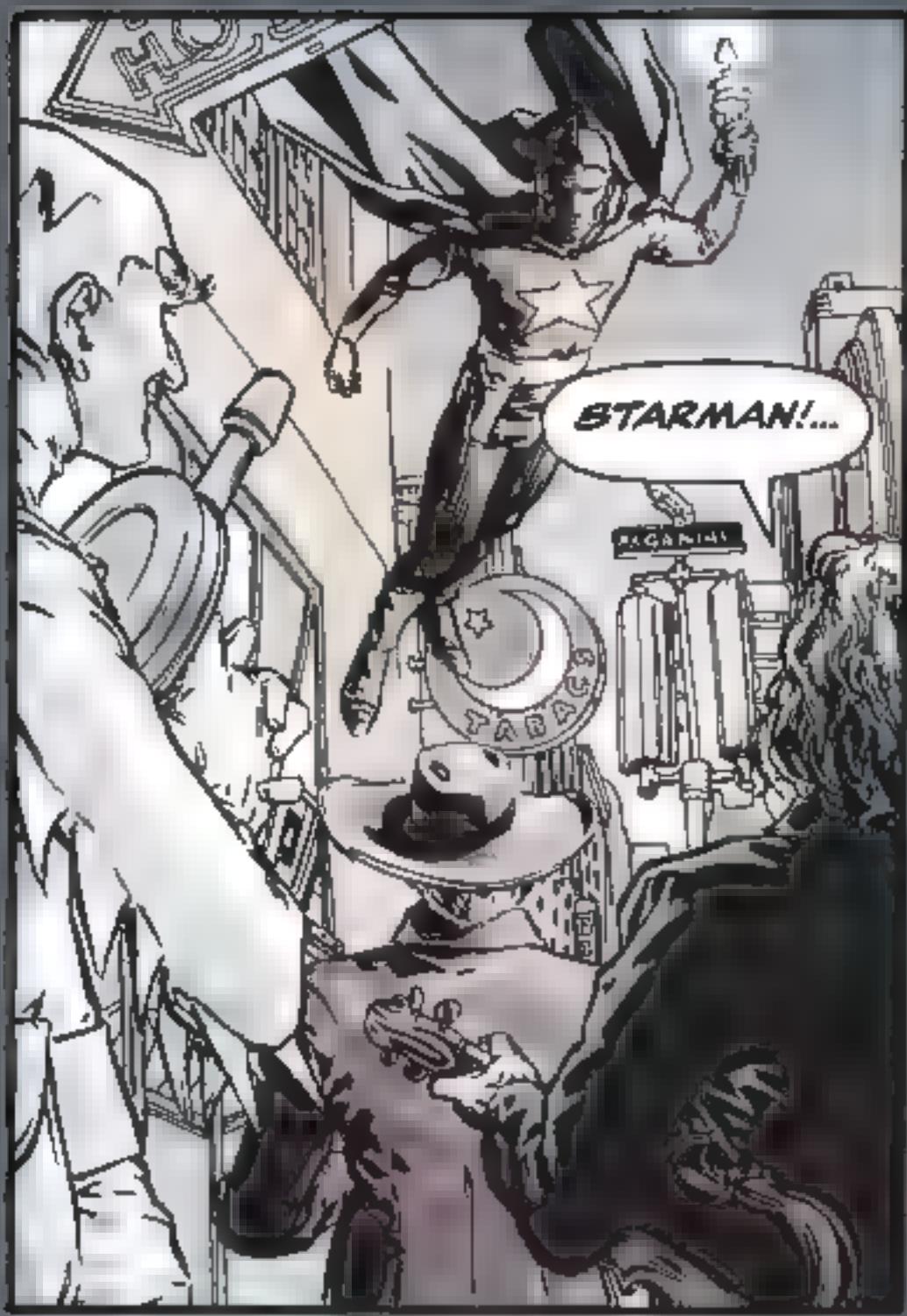
YES. EVERYTHING MADE MORE SENSE.











And so it began.

The dance. The familiar minuet that starts with no one leading or following...

...at first.

EASY.
ONE SHOT
SHOULD--



OH

Bennetti moves with milley quickness when he has to. True, usually he saunters along like he's drunk one too many of those martinis he so enjoys...

But even in the present, now he's aged (ten years instead of the forty he should have) he moves with a lithe grace.



Back then...he was a cat
(as in feline, not swinger).

It's odd, but thinking
about him...in all his
crimes...I never knew
him to move with
such...desperation.

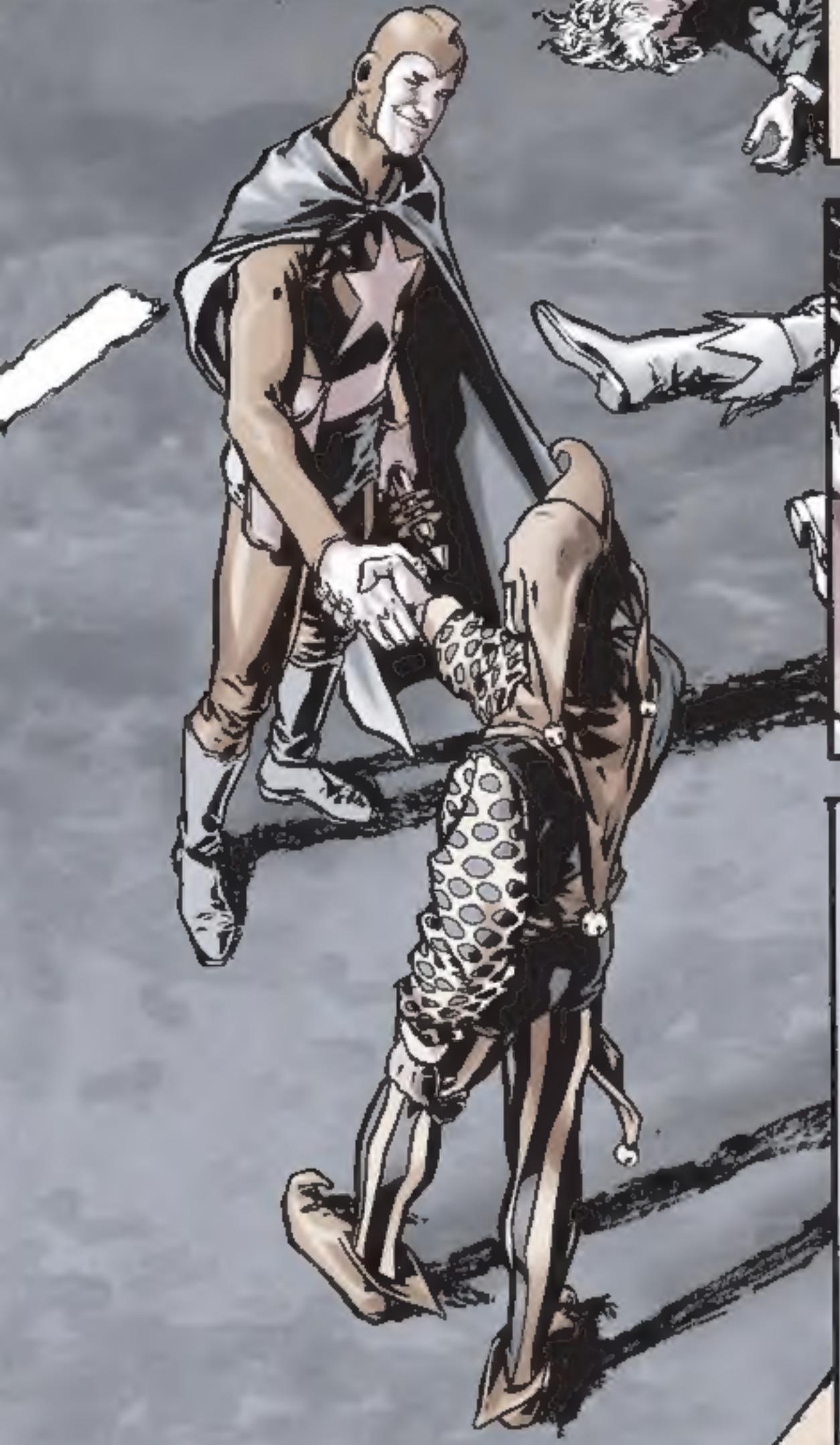
And with a feline's
ruthless intent he
eliminated the unseen
threat to Starman that
aimed from above. One,
two...





...or some other thing...
can intercede.

Sometimes.



The Jester never did find Bennett. Not then.

But six months later, Bennett committed thefts in Opal...and fought Starman because of it.

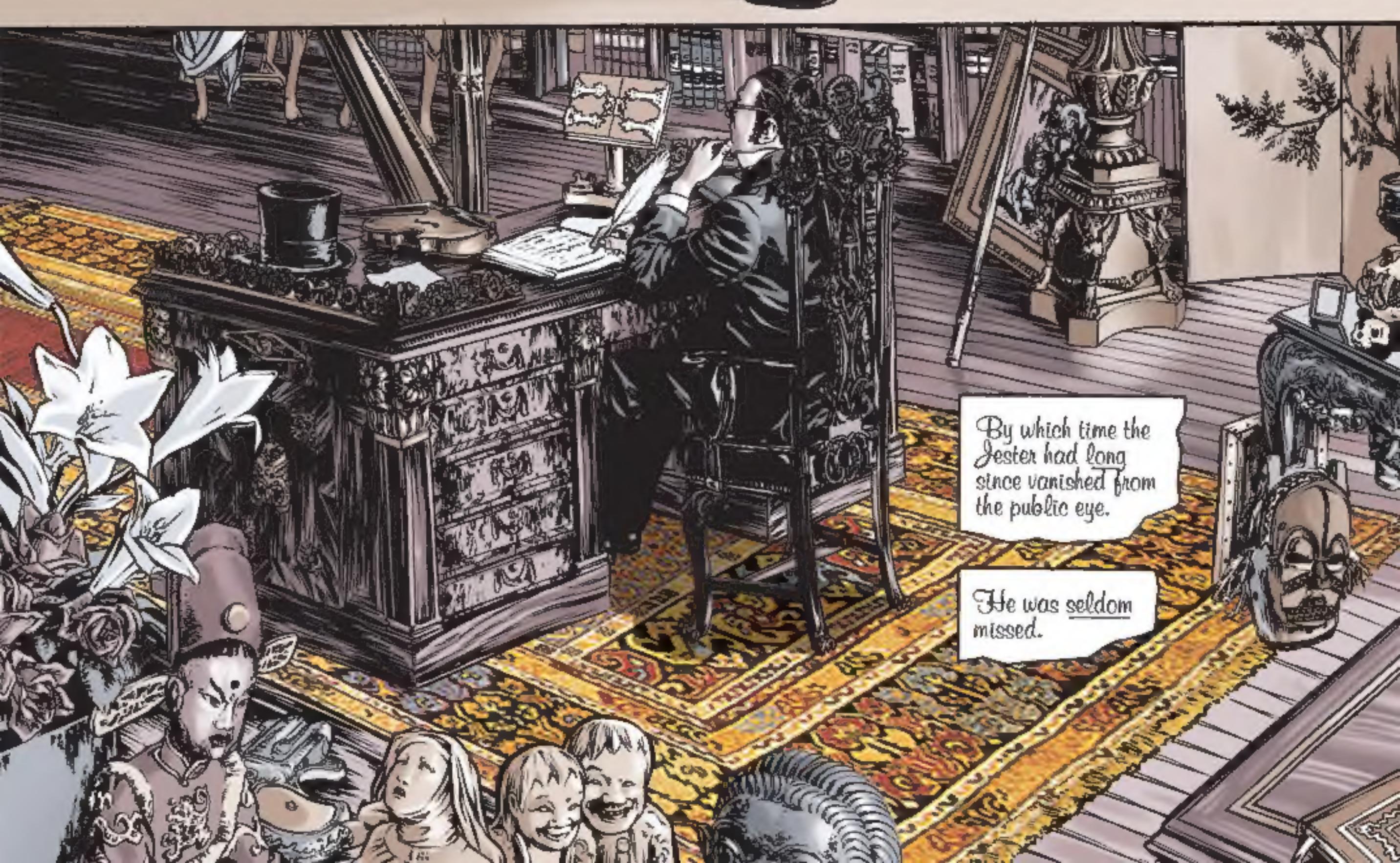
He was captured and jailed... at which time Detective Charles Lane appeared out of the ether...so to speak...

...extradition order in hand. And Bennett was finally charged with his New York crimes.



By which time the Jester had long since vanished from the public eye.

He was seldom missed.



Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE!"

DCP